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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

Have just replaced old calendars with bright new 1979's, and the New Year is off and running. Like many others, I watched 1978 slip into history by way of home TV, until the strains of Auld Lang Syne had yielded to Show Me The Way To Go Home.

* * *

A popular pasttime has been naming the "big news stories" of the year just ended. It is not so sensational, but to me the big story of 1978 in Appomattox was that we had a good solid year of steady growth, high employment and no major disasters. And for the New Year, what's wrong with the slogan, "We'll Rise and Shine in Seventy-Nine."

* * *

Still talking about what a nice Christmas. Everyone was so thoughtful. Example, one of my greeting cards was from a dear friend I have not seen since 1931. And gifts, everything from a new hat to a jar or strawberry preserves. All appreciated, and thanks a million.

* * *

The ACHS football team of 1978 will long be remembered. Joe Fraley and Ronnie Abernathy, and Darrell Schrock were named to the All-State squad. And I am proud of my alma mater, University of Richmond, whose Jeff Nixon made All-American. Bowl games are still with us, but before the first crocus blooms, we'll be clearing the deck for baseball, and a lot of basketball in between. Sports events never cease.

* * *

Seen Around Town, Christmas morning. A father holding on to a small child trying out new roller skates. And youngsters with new bicycles.

* * *

Had an interesting visitor, a gentleman from a radio network seeking information for a program on Joe Sweeney, inventor of the five-string banjo. The fame of Joel Walker Sweeney is legendary and I only wish he had taken time to keep a diary or record his travels. His birthplace and his gravesite are in Appomattox County and his contributions to music qualify him for the musical Hall of Fame.

* * *

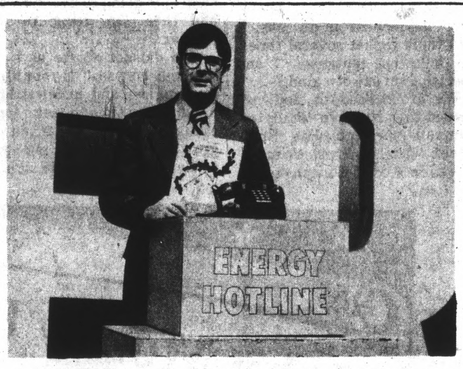
Comment . . . 1978 may be recorded as The Year of The Instant Replay.

* * *

New Year Resolutions are not made to be broken, especially if you resolved to read more good books. We have excellent school and county libraries, and librarians are glad to serve you. I note that one state university in its libraries has some two million books! One of my delights is to select what would seem to be a dull book from my own library and then read it and change my mind. One such I am now reading is Niccolo Machiavelli's **History of Florence, Italy** from 1010 to 1348. Good books, like good furniture, become more valuable with age.

Thought for a New Year . . .
"If by my living I may prove
Faith and beauty, truth and love!
Twisted, shattered, drained and wrung,
I shall have sung! I shall have sung!"
-Irene R. McLeod.

There are many fine organizations, civic groups, churches in Appomattox. Let us work together and keep Appomattox A Growing Town. Thanks for reading, Seeya next week.



J. Boyd Spencer, Director, Division of Energy, tells viewers of the public television network, about the free Home Computer Analysis and Do-It-Yourself handbooks available by calling the Energy Hot Line.

Special Program On Energy To Be Aired January 4

The State Energy Division will broadcast an hour television special on energy over the five-station Public Broadcasting Network Thursday, January 4, at 9 p.m.

"The show is part of a statewide effort to inform Virginians about the free services available to help homeowners cut their energy costs. If viewers follow the information provided in the show, they will be able to cut their energy costs by at least 20 to 30 per cent," according to George L. Jones, Coordinator, State Office of Emergency and Energy Services.

The show - entitled "Energy Hot Line" - will be presented a second time on stations WBRA, Roanoke at 10 p.m. on January 6, WCVE, Richmond at 6 p.m. on January 7.

In addition to segments on cost-cutting improvements, the show will promote a statewide toll-free energy hot line (1-800-552-3831) which viewers can call to request free home energy computer analyses, a free 80-page illustrated, step-by-step approach to caulking, weatherstripping and insulating, and free Home Energy Cost-Cutting Clinics.

Division Director J. Boyd Spencer and Technical Coordinator Dr. Temple Bayliss will make the Energy Division presentations.

Also to appear on the program are Jones and State Senator J. Harry Michael, Chairman of the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission.

Primary emphasis during the hour long special presentation will be on the free computer analysis program, a cooperative effort by the Office of Emergency and Energy Services and Virginia Tech's Extension Division.

Dr. S. P. Bowen, associate professor of physics will demonstrate the program by connecting a terminal in the studio directly to a computer in Minneapolis.

Viewers will be able to request a computer analysis questionnaire during the program by calling the hot line number.

The questionnaire includes simple but detailed questions about the dimensions of the home, the amount of energy saving materials already installed, and the type of fuel used.

From that information, the computer print-out lists the areas where heating losses occur in the winter, where hot air is gained in the summer, and which improvements will be worth the investments.

The computer program has been nicknamed "Honest Sam" because it is designed to frankly advise against those steps that the computer calculates would not be worth the investment.

More than 70,000 computer questionnaires have already been distributed to homeowners across the State.

Special segments will be presented on insulation, heating systems, and hot water heaters.

Town Announces Off-Hours Phones

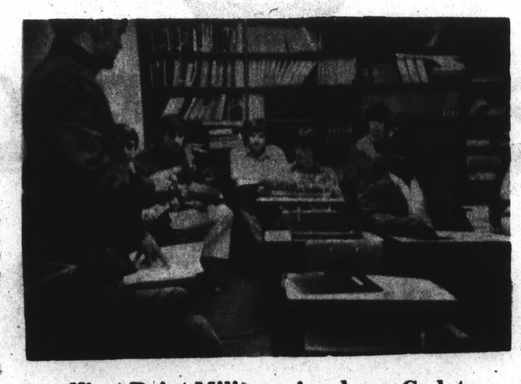
At times other than normal business hours, prior to 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m., any emergencies concerning water, sewer or any Town of Appomattox related emergency should be reported by phoning 352-7414, according to W. R. Britton, Jr., Town Manager.

For general information, the following telephone numbers may be beneficial to the citizens: Fire Department, 352-5212; Town Manager's office, W. R. Britton, Jr., phone 352-8268; Town Police, 352-7414; and Work Shop, Harold Nash, phone 352-8393.

SCHOOL BOARD TO MEET JANUARY 10

The Appomattox County School Board will meet in regular session in the Board Room in Appomattox on Wednesday, January 10, 1979, at 3 p.m.

Items on the agenda will include consideration of Six-Year Division Plan, consideration of Six-Year Special Education Plan, consideration of 1979-80 Vocational Education Plan, consideration of revised special education policies, minimum competency test results, report on audit of pupil accounting records, and review of directive from Board of Supervisors regarding 1979-80 budget.



West Point Military Academy Cadet Speaks to ACHS Juniors & Sophomores

Cadet Steve Farmer, senior enrolled at West Point Military Academy, is shown above, left, orienting junior and sophomore students at Appomattox County High School, to the program at the Academy. Information related to admission procedures, objectives of the Academy, freshman orientation, development of leadership, and the academic-extracurricular program. Students attending the orientation were Mark Paulette, Robert Harding, Kenny Shorter, Craig Smith, Johna Belter, Margie Coleman, Ernie Chenault, Herbert Allen, Robbie Robinson, Dana White and Ralph Totty. Those students expressed an interest in the Academy.

Red House Ruritan Club Organized

A new Ruritan Club is being chartered at Red House. At its organizational meeting in December, the following new members were present and applied for a charter: Foster Reynolds, James Bennett, Kenneth Marston, Benny Marston, Tom Conrad, Tom Lamberth, Mike Weakley, Lester Fannon, Page Petty, John M. Barksdale, A. H. "Doc" Morris, Rev. Hilton Moore, Anthony Reeves, Thomas Reeves, and John W. Chambers, John T. Hunter, Jr. and Phil Reynolds could not be present, but are signed-up as charter members. Anthony Reeves was elected temporary chairman and Hilton Moore, temporary secretary.

With the organization of the Red House Ruritans, the community will once again have a Community Service Club. The Tri-County Ruritan Club served the community for a number of years before disbanding.

Assisting with the organizational meeting were Joe Weekley, District Governor; Horace Coleman, Zone Governor; Jimmy Yeattes, National Director; and Bob McClenny, member of the Pamplin Ruritan Club whic h is sponsoring the Red House club.

The Red House club will be presented its charter by the District Governor at its "charter night", January 15, 1979.

RABIES CLINICS SCHEDULED

W. M. Burger, Jr., D.V.M. has announced the dates for the 1979 Rabies Dog Vaccination clinics.

There will be a Rabies Dog Vaccination clinic at the Appomattox Animal Hospital from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, and on Friday, January 26; a clinic at Buckingham Court House from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, January 27; at the Pamplin Fire House in Pamplin from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31; and at Chambers Store in Red House from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31.

State law requires certificate of vaccination before dog licenses may be purchased. There will be a $3.00 fee for vaccination of each dog.

GARDEN CLUB ANNOUNCES HOME DECORATIONS WINNERS

The Appomattox Garden Club has announced winners in the Christmas Home Decorations contest.

In the overall traditional categroy Mr. and Mrs. W. H. "Billy" Conner won first place; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Jamerson, Jr. won second place; third place went to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sears; and Honorable Mention to Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Harwood. Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Carson won first place in the traditional door decoration category, Mrs. J. E. Sears, second place; Miss Edith O'Brien, third place; and Honorable Mention to Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Scott.

In the modern overall category, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Fleshman, Jr. took first place honors; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jamerson, second place; Mr. and Mrs. Larry S. White, third place; and honorable mention went to the H.B. Stanley home, decorated by Bill Stanley. Mrs. Patsy G. Moore won first place for her modern door decoration; second place award went to Mr. and Mrs. Eston Harvey; third place to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lawson; and honorable mention to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Caldwell.

Members of the Appomattox Garden Club express appreciation to all who decorated and made thier homes so beautiful for the Christmas holiday season. The club also congratulates the business establishments in Appomattox on their Christmas decorations. They added a note of beauty to the Christmas scene.

Finch Announces Management Restructuring At Thomasville Furniture Industries

Tom A. Finch

L. E. Bish

L. E. Foster

THOMASVILLE, N.C. - Tom A. Finch, president of Thomasville Furniture Industries, Inc. has announced that he assumed the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, effective January 1.

L. E. Bish, now executive vice president, became president of Thomasville Furniture Industries, reporting to Finch.

Bish assumed full responsibility for the operation of the company and will continue as general manager of the Thomasville Division.

L. E. Foster will continue as executive vice president and general manager of the Armstrong Divison, reporting to Bish.

Finch said the restructuring will strengthen the company's organization by best utilizing management talents, and is consistent with the company's commitment of maintaining the necessary flexibility to serve the changing needs of its customers.

"This move will relieve me of a growing administrative load and will allow me to concentrate my time, energy and talents on those aspects of the business which are most important to our future growth and success, and in those areas where I can make the greatest contribution to Thomasville Furniture," Finch said.

"L. E. Bish has proven that he is an able manager and will handle the daily operation of our business in a most effective manner. He has a solid background of nearly 10 years in the furniture business," Finch said.

"L. E. Foster has developed our relatively new Armstrong Furniture Division into a highly successful operation," Finch said.

A major expansion of the Armstrong Division's facility in Appomattox, Va., will be completed in January, adding approximately 150,000 square feet and increasing production capacity by 30 percent. Thomasville Furniture also operates 13 plants in Thomasville, and others in Lenoir, Hickory, Pleasant Garden, Sawmills, West Jefferson and Winston-Salem, N.C. and in Brookneal, Va., and in Fayette, Miss.

Finch continues as a member of the Board of Directors of Armstrong Cork Co. of Lancaster Pa., the parent company of TFI, and as an Armstrong group vice president.

Finch, 56, has served as TFI president since 1961. (His grandfather, the late T. J. Finch, was the company's first president, and his father, the late T. Austin Finch, served as president from 1929 to 1943.)

A native of Thomasville, Finch is a 1943 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Princeton University. He joined Thomasville Furniture in 1946.

He is a director of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Winston-Salem, N.C., a director of Integon Corp., Winston-Salem, and a trustee of Duke University, Durham, N.C. He is past president of the Southern Furniture Manufacturers' Association, past president of the Furniture Factories Marketing Association of the South, and in 1963 was selected as Furniture Man of the Year by the American Furniture Mart.

Bish, 54, was born in Butler, Pa., and received his bachelor's degree in 1950 from Grove City (Pa.) College. He also attended the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Business.

He joined Armstrong Cork in 1950, and has held various management positions in research, personnel, industrial relations and production.

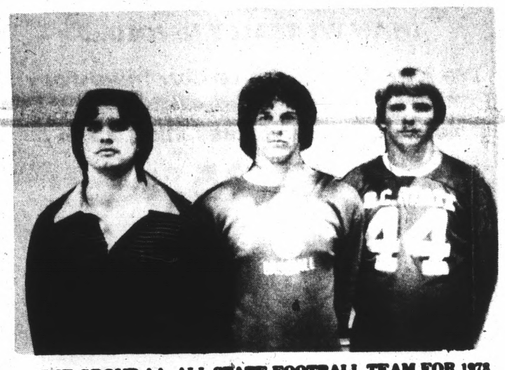
Bish was named senior vice president in charge of manufacturing with Thomasville in 1969, and became executive vice president and general manager, Thomasville Division, in 1977.

He is currently chairman of the board of trustees at Community General Hospital, Thomasville, vice chairman of the Thomasville Housing Authority, and serves on the boards of various church, service and industrial organizations.

Foster, 61, was born in Birmingham, Ala., and received his bachelor's degree in 1939 from Auburn (Ala.) University.

He joined Armstrong Cork in 1939 and has held various management positions in merchandising and marketing areas.

In 1969, Foster was named a senior vice president with Thomasville Furniture, and became executive vice president and general manager, Armstrong Division in 1973.



THE GROUP AA, ALL STATE FOOTBALL TEAM FOR 1978 was announced last week with Raiders shown above included: from left, Ronnie Abernathy, named to the second team as offensive guard. Ronnie also made the first team All Seminole District on both offense and defense and the first team All Region III on defense. Darrell Schrock received Honorable Mention as offensive end. Darrell also made first team All Seminole District and All Region III. During the season he caught 38 passes for 920 yards and 17 touchdowns. Joe Fraley, named to the second team at Quarterback, was 1978 All Region III and All Seminole District First Team Quarterback. Joe led the Raiders to a District title with 43 carries for 401 yards, 80 complete passes in 140 attempts for 1,588 yards and 23 touchdowns.

Appomattox River Authority To Use Carbon To Control Problem

Robert E. Sayre, general manager of the Appomattox River Water Authority, Petersburg, Va., has announced that the Authority has signed a three-year "Potable Water Service" contract with Calgon Corporation, Pittsburgh.

Under terms of the contract, Calgon will provide 198,000 pounds of granular activated carbon and associated services to correct taste and odor problems in the drinking water produced at the Authority's 22-million-gallon-a-day plant located at the Lake Chesdin dam near Matoaca. Appomattox will pay a monthly service fee over a three-year period.

"Granular carbon is the most effective filter media for control of taste and odor in drinking water," Sayre said. Miscroscopic pores in the carbon act like sponges, absorbing organic contaminants that cause foul taste and odor. The organic material fouling the Authority's water is caused by a prolific growth of algae, especially in the shallow upper reaches of Lake Chesdin, the plant's raw water source.

"We recognized that it's economically more feasible to use granular carbon through the 'Potable Water Service' than to just buy carbon from a supplier. The new Calgon 'Service' allows to to pay a monthly service fee; this eliminates the need for a major capital expense to correct the taste and odor problem." In addition to supplying the carbon, Calgon will also provide technical assistance, analytical services, install and monitor pilot columns to tract performance of the carbon, and replace the carbon, when necessary.

Installation of the carbon began in December, 1978.

Present treatment for taste and odor includes use of potassium permanganate, powdered carbon, superchlorination (high levels of chlorine), and dual-media filtration using sand and anthracite. The granular activiated carbon supplied by Calgon will replace the anthracite in the filtration operation, and greatly reduce the need for other chemicals for taste and odor control.

The Appomattox River Water Authority serves over 85,000 consumers in the cities of Petersburg and Colonial Heights and the areas of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties. "A sparkling, fresh, good drinking water supply is important to all residential consumers, but it's also extremely important to local food processing and wine making operations. These and other industries require the highest quality water for use in their production oeprations," Sayre said. "Our soon-to-be improved water supply will not only please those persons now living and working here, but I think it will be a selling point in attracting new businesses to our area."

WOODMEN JOINT MEETING - JANUARY 8

Woodmen of the World Camp 71 and Grove 6073 will have a joint meeting for the Installation of Officers and Initiation on January 8, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. All members and officers are asked to attend.

Virignia Chamber Sees Continued Economic Growth

Virginia's economy should continue to grow at a faster pace than that of neighboring states and the nation as a whole, says Richard S. Gillis, Jr., Executive Vice President of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.

"There are no visible reasons why Virginia should not continue its rapid growth," Gillis stated in the Virginia Chamber's annual Virginia Economic Forecast. "Excellent transportation facilities, education, and an abundance of good commercial locations, along with relatively abundant energy are factors that will continue to promote economic growth."

Gillis's report notes that the Virginia Chamber has been watching and promoting the Virignia economy since 1924, a time when the state's income ranked very low compared to the rest of the nation. Now, in terms of per capita income, Virginia ranks first among Southeastern states, and the state's economy fares in the top half nationally.

High technology industry continues to be attracted to the state, according to the Chamber's analysis. Educational training establishments are keeping pace and are working with industry to provide capable workers. Government and support industries in the state are also doing well in adapting to the changing face of American business, according to Gillis. Diversification of business and industry continues to be a factor in the stability of the Virginia economy notes the report.

Year end figures for Virginia's travel industry show that this important economic factor contributed better than $2 billion to the state's economy. The devaluation of the dollar and lower international airfares will mean more foreign tourists for Virginia in 1979, says Gillis. To reach its full potential, however, Gillis says that Virginia's outstanding domestic marketing programs

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